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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A nonwoven fabric (1) that includes a fastener surface for the male component (2) of a hook and loop fastener system, comprising a carded and needled fibrous web of functional fibres and binding fibres, where the functional fibres are comprised of thermoplastic polymer fibres and the nonwoven fabric is bonded by partially melting the binding fibres. A method of producing such nonwoven fabric (1) by carding a mixture of binding fibres and functional fibres to form a fibrous web, needling the fibres web to obtain a dense material that has a structure on which the male component of a hook and loop fastener system is able to fasten, and heating the needled fibrous web to partially melt the binding fibres. A absorbent article, such as a diaper, having an absorbent body enclosed between an outer and an inner sheet and including a hook and loop fastener system with which the article can be secured to a wearer, wherein the female component (1) of the system is comprised of nonwoven fabric.